GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:124
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004
GENERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER
Khan Shri Sunil

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the target of nuclear power generation tixedand achieved during the year 2003-04;

(b) whether India has large reserve ofthoriulD; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not exploiting this reserve for nuclear power generation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE (SHR! PRITHVIRAJ qHA V AN):

(a) to (c) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY

STATEMENT-REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.124 FOR ANSWER ON 14.7.2004 REGARDING GENERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER BY SHRI SUNIL KHAN.

(a) The target of nuclear power generation for the year 2003-04_w~ 17,200 Million Units (MUs). The achievement was-17,783 MUs. In addition, 78 MUs were also generated ITom,Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit-1 (RAPS-I), for which no target was fixed.

(b) India has abundant thorium resources.

(c) With a view to utilise large reserves of thorium, a three stage nuclear power programme has been envisaged. In the ,first stage Natural Uranium is used as fuel. From the spent fuel of the first stage, Plutonium is extracted and used as fuel in the second stage in Fast Breeder Reactors. The third stage uses Uranium-233 as fuel. Uranium-233 is produced by irradiating Thorium in nuclear reactors. Thorium by itself is not fissionable. The third stage for large scale exploitation of Thorium can be laUnched only after a sizable base capacity of the second stage is built up. The three stages have fuel cycle linkages and hence have to be gone through sequentially.